## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

MARC	VEASEY,	ET AL.,	)	CASE NO: 2:13-CV-00193
		Plaintiffs,	)	CIVIL
	vs.		)	Corpus Christi, Texas
RICK	PERRY, E	T AL.,	)	Wednesday, April 16, 2014
		Defendants.	)	(8:16 a.m. to 8:37 a.m.)

#### TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

BEFORE THE HONORABLE NELVA GONZALES RAMOS, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

### **APPEARANCES:**

For United States ELIZABETH WESTFALL, ESQ. of America: U.S. Department of Justice

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NWB 7125

Washington, DC 20009

For State of Texas: JENNIFER ROSCETTI, ESQ.

Assistant Attorney General

Court Recorder: Lori Cayce

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# Corpus Christi, Texas; Wednesday, April 16, 2014; 8:16 a.m.

## (Courtroom and Telephonic Appearances)

### Call to Order

THE COURT: This is Cause Number 2-13-193, Veasey,

Et al. versus State of Texas, Et al. And Brandy has done a

role call here so I know who's on the phone. So we'll proceed

with the motion to compel, and I believe you all have been

working on it. Ms. Roscetti, do you want to proceed on that?

MS. ROSCETTI: Yes, your Honor. Thank you. This is

Assistant Attorney General Jennifer Roscetti, and I'll be

arguing this.

Basically the motion to compel has three main points; two which deal with a common interest privileged document and the law indicates --

THE COURT: Okay. It's my understanding the

Defendant said they're not withholding anything based on common interest doctrine.

with that in both of the common interest in the law enforcement documents is while they say they haven't withheld any of those, they produced those this Monday, which was the day that this — their opposition to this filing was due. And in that response, they stated they're continuing to search for similar documents, but this initial request for production was served on the Defendant — on the United States in December of 2013.

may be.

Is that correct?

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              MS. WESTFALL: It is not clear until we do the search
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    and figure out what the privileges are over the particular
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    documents.
              THE COURT: Well, then -- then it's an issue.
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                                                              Then
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    it's an issue that the Defense needs to clear up.
              MS. ROSCETTI: Well, your Honor. Jennifer Roscetti.
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 7
    May I proceed?
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              THE COURT: Yes.
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              MS. ROSCETTI: Well, what we would propose is for
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    your Honor to by a date certain to have the Defendant identify
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    those documents and produce those documents so that discovery
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    isn't dragged out further, and we would request those documents
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    -- and if those documents -- if they are identified that they
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    want to assert this common interest document over, they produce
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    it under a protective order marked highly confidential --
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              THE COURT: Well, let's get a date here first because
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    maybe we're not going to have any documents.
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              Ms. Westfall, when can the Government do this?
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              MS. WESTFALL: We are in the process of reviewing
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    hundreds and hundreds of documents --
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              THE COURT: I'm asking for a date. When can this get
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    done by?
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              MS. WESTFALL: I -- I believe that we could probably
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    produce them -- let me look at a calendar.
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              Well, I'm not in a position right now to be able to
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    preparation. There's no reason whatsoever, it's not warranted
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    to review those documents under seal, and the State has failed
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    to --
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              THE COURT: Okay. Let me get this right. We don't
 5
    even know what documents we're discussing, right? This is like
 6
    a theoretical discussion we're having as to there may be some
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    documents?
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              MS. WESTFALL: Correct.
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              THE COURT: Ms. Roscetti.
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              MS. ROSCETTI: Your Honor, what we would suggest is
    since they are still reviewing those documents, that they --
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12
    there is a date certain by which they have to have that review
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    done, and that --
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              THE COURT: Okay, ma'am. You heard me try to push
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    her, and she's not working with me. So what's your suggestion
    on date and --
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              MS. ROSCETTI: Well, she didn't give the reasons that
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    they -- they would do something like we did with the
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    legislative privilege document where when they identified those
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    documents, there --
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              THE COURT: Can you provide me a date? And then I'll
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    just set that date, because the Government is not working with
23
    me on a date.
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              MS. ROSCETTI: We -- I'm sorry, your Honor.
                                                            Jennifer
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               We would say that we would give them two weeks.
    Roscetti.
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interest doctrines between Plaintiffs.

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I would also add, your Honor, that here where you have ordered the United States and the other Plaintiffs to engage in -- to coordinate discovery as to that decision, the number of depositions and also joint interrogatories, there is reason and need to have a doctrine applied to the Plaintiffs in

- 1 | this case, and also -- I'd also add the distinction is a little
- 2 bit new to us because many of the Plaintiffs here were
- 3 Defendants -- Defendant intermediaries along with this actuary
- 4 Defendant, the Attorney General, and Section 5 matters here
- 5 | really not a meaningful -- it's not a meaningful decision for
- 6 purposes of this case.
- 7 **THE COURT:** Ms. Roscetti.
- 8 MS. ROSCETTI: Your Honor, yes. I would like to
- 9 clarify. We are not conceding that these documents are not
- 10 relevant. We are just merely stating that since there is no
- 11 | answer on file, they can't discuss the relevance for discovery
- 12 purposes.
- And further, Ms. Westfall made a great point; that
- 14 these cases have not been extended in the Fifth Circuit to
- 15 Co-Plaintiffs. Rather the cases that are on point in the Fifth
- 16 | Circuit really argue -- are very hesitant to extend it, and
- 17 only extend it where there are joint defenses or there's a
- 18 posture to where the Defendants could be together as a
- 19 Defendant, and they have not extended it to anything --
- 20 **THE COURT:** Okay. Let me see where we're at right
- 21 now. At this point, the Government, United States, is not
- 22 | withholding any documents under the common interest doctrine.
- 23 Is that correct? Now, it's still looking for documents, and
- 24 they want to assert that -- that --
- 25 MS. ROSCETTI: Yes, your Honor.

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THE COURT: Okay. Then I will look at that further. Your briefings were filed on Monday. There was an amended request for production -- motion to compel filed. The response was filed very late Monday. I was in trial all day yesterday, so I did look at your briefing, but I did not get to pull the cases and read them to see how they apply. So I'm withholding that common interest at this point ruling on that. And what's the next issue, Ms. Roscetti? MS. ROSCETTI: Yes, your Honor. Ms. Roscetti for this Defendant. The logs with the privileged documents are very similar to the common interest privilege documents because while the United States state in their opposition to our motion to compel that they have not withheld any form of document based on the law enforcement privilege, we know for a fact they have actually not started searching for those documents. THE COURT: Okay, Ms. Westfall. Are you all looking for those documents as well? MS. WESTFALL: Well, that is -- that is not correct. We have produced many, many documents. First of all, just a bit of background on the request to which Ms. Roscetti is referring. The State has requested -- let me get this request. All documents relating to any allegations substantiated or unsubstantiated of further fraud in any

national, state, or local elections within the United States.

Is

1 And that's without a conversation so that's 2 especially (indiscernible). In response to this request, the United States has produced a very large volume of documents 3 related to election crimes from the Department of Justice, 4 5 Civil Rights Division and Criminal Division, complaints alleging voter fraud that has come into the voting section of 6 7 the Civil Rights Division, and we are presently in the process of negotiating with the State further broader searches 8 involving the FBI, the Criminal Division, the Public Integrity 10 Section, and the Executive Offices of the United States 11 Attorney, so it's simply not correct that we have not produced 12 any documents related to their fraud case. 13 THE COURT: Ms. Roscetti. 14 MS. ROSCETTI: Yes, your Honor. When we spoke to 15 them on Tuesday of this week, we were discussing the progress 16 of the United States contact with these other entities such as 17 the FBI or even the United States Attorney's Office to find 18 these documents. 19 What we were told is that they're still in the 20 process of determining what these agencies do related to 21 turning over these documents. 22 **THE COURT:** Okay. Am I hearing the same thing again? 23 The Government has produced what it has, but it's still looking

for documents that it may want to claim is privilege on?

that the same situation we're in?

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              MS. ROSCETTI: That's correct.
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              MS. WESTFALL: Your Honor --
              MS. ROSCETTI: Yes.
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              THE COURT: Okay.
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              MS. WESTFALL: Your Honor --
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              THE COURT: Is it really ready for me to consider?
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              MS. WESTFALL: It is not, your Honor. This is
 8
    Elizabeth Westfall.
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              THE COURT: Ms. Roscetti.
              MS. ROSCETTI: Your Honor, Jennifer Roscetti. I
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    would argue -- and the Defendant would argue that it is ready
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    for it to be considered because they can't argue that it's not
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    ripe when they haven't produced or searched for the documents.
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              THE COURT: But I thought -- I thought I heard
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    they're in the process.
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              MS. ROSCETTI: The problem, your Honor -- Jennifer
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    Roscetti, for the Defendant. These requests were propounded --
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              THE COURT: Okay. Well, let's give them a date
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    certain again. Thirty days for both.
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              MS. ROSCETTI: Thank you.
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              THE COURT: Both categories. How about that,
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    Ms. Westfall?
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              MS. WESTFALL: Thank you, your Honor.
              THE COURT: Okay. What else?
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              MS. ROSCETTI:
                             Your Honor, the last issue is
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    concerning the United States privileged logs, and it really
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    deals with two assertions that they're privileged. A work
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    product privilege, and then there's a liberative process
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    privilege.
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              The problem with their work product assertion in
    their privileged log is that after they've amended it two
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    times, they're still precursory, and it's very hard for the
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    Defendant to appropriately evaluate these work product
    assertions.
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              Mainly issues are where they assert work product.
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    There is information missing from the two -- for recipient
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    field as well as the date. And under the -- the Federal Rules,
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    the work products doctrine designation requires that the
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    document be prepared by or for the party or their
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    representative in anticipation of litigation or for trial.
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    When we don't have a date, we can't determine when these were
17
    prepared for.
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                         Right. Reading the briefs, I thought
              THE COURT:
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    some of those did not have dates. So, I mean, if there's not a
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    date on them -- there were some notes or something I gathered
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    from the briefing that maybe weren't dated. Is that right,
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    Ms. Westfall?
              MS. WESTFALL: Yes, the dates were unavailable.
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THE COURT: Okay. I mean, they're not available.

25 The dates are not available.

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MS. ROSCETTI: And your Honor, there are other places
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 2
    where they're not listed. And this is Jennifer Roscetti for
    the State -- for the Defendant.
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              The problem is that United States through the
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 5
    Department of Justice engages in what is -- they do the
    preclearance evaluations of certain things that have specific
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 7
    information to see whether their voting logs can be researched,
    but then they also engage in litigation. So they kind of have
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    this dual purpose.
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              And so as they're looking at documents during this
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    preclearance stage, and then they argue that these documents
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    aren't relevant towards this litigation, without a date, and
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    there are documents there that just don't have a date listed
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    and it doesn't say they're not available. We can't determine
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    whether the document was made during the preclearance stage or
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    during --
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              THE COURT:
                          Okay.
              MS. ROSCETTI: -- really in anticipation of
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19
    litigation.
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              THE COURT: So why can't we address that,
21
    Ms. Westfall, just to make it clear?
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              MS. WESTFALL: Certainly. I mean, I can represent
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    that the logs where there is no date available on the document
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    certainly is not, but they -- they've not been able to put a
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But I can represent to you, having

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date on those logs.

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    reviewed these documents, that all of the documents concerning
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    attorney notes where essential witnesses are similar, and we
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    believe that they are -- were all produced during the same
    period on or around the beginning of April 2012, which was
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    during the litigation affecting the people during the discovery
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    phase.
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              THE COURT: Is that sufficient, Ms. Roscetti?
              MS. ROSCETTI: I believe so, your Honor.
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 9
              THE COURT: Okay. What else then on the privileged
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    loq?
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              MS. ROSCETTI: The other thing is there's a
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    liberative process assertion, and that this is twofold.
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    basically produced redacted form documents that have been made
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    public, and the document --
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              THE COURT: I'm sorry. I didn't catch that.
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              MS. ROSCETTI: I'm sorry. There's a liberative
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    process assertion that are twofold to their argument. Some of
18
    the assertions go to documents that were producing redacted
19
    forms of their public documents. Under the liberative process
20
    privilege, there are five elements, one of which is that those
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    documents with that information should not have been shared
22
    with the public. If it had, there's no privilege.
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              THE COURT: Okay. Do you have public documents,
24
    Ms. Westfall?
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I'm not sure which documents

MS. WESTFALL:

- 1 Ms. Roscetti is referring to.
- 2 MS. ROSCETTI: Your Honor, Jennifer Roscetti. The
- 3 documents I'm referring to are on the privileged log, it will
- 4 | say "portion of letter to" and it's a non-DOJ entity. And it
- 5 has something about -- indicating internal distribution. And
- 6 | what has happened is, that letter is a letter from the
- 7 Department of Justice of the United States to an outside
- 8 entity --
- 9 THE COURT: Okay. Well, that should be pretty easy
- 10 to determine. Ms. Westfall.
- 11 MS. WESTFALL: Yes. These -- what she is referring
- 12 to, first of all, just a bit of background, the United States
- 13 | has asserted that the liberative process privilege is grounds
- 14 | for withholding or redacting documents related to the Attorney
- 15 General's determination from the Commission of Voting Changes
- 16 under Section 5. This includes internal staff comments and
- 17 | information that identifies --
- 18 **THE COURT:** Okay. She's talking about public
- 19 documents. Documents you all send to someone outside of your
- 20 department.
- 21 MS. WESTFALL: Correct. These -- these
- 22 | correspondence which have been produced -- all of the
- 23 underlying correspondence has been produced to the State months
- 24 ago, perhaps years ago, in previous litigation; it includes on
- 25 | the internal copy within DOJ will have information related to

- 1 | who received the copy internally within the Department of
- 2 Justice. That information has not been disclosed to the
- 3 public. It has not been waived under the, you know, five
- 4 | factor test which Ms. Roscetti referred; nor is it -- does it
- 5 have any relevance whatsoever to this litigation.
- 6 MS. ROSCETTI: And, your Honor, Jennifer Roscetti for
- 7 | the State. We -- from the privileged log, we cannot infer that
- 8 information, and we've actually asked the Defendant for more
- 9 clarification --
- 10 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Westfall, I think you need to
- 11 provide more clarification on that.
- 12 MS. WESTFALL: Sure.
- 13 | THE COURT: On the privileged log. I don't have time
- 14 | to sit here and listen to it, but I think you all can visit,
- 15 amend your privileged log, whatever it needs to be make it --
- 16 to make it clear to the Defendants.
- 17 MS. WESTFALL: Certainly, your Honor.
- 18 | THE COURT: Okay. What else? Because I'm going to
- 19 have to start wrapping up here. Did you all discuss the
- 20 attorney-client privilege further regarding the documents that
- 21 | were requested for the Defendants?
- 22 MS. ROSCETTI: Your Honor, Jennifer Roscetti with the
- 23 | State. The Defendant -- or I'm sorry. The United States has
- 24 | produced all of the documents at issue as to attorney-client --
- 25 THE COURT: Okay. So that's no longer an issue.

- We'll have to -- maybe we can gather in a couple of weeks to discuss how we want to proceed with the trial. We can set another hearing.
- But what else on the motion to compel that was reported quick this morning?
- 6 MS. ROSCETTI: Your Honor, Jennifer Roscetti, with 7 Defendant. There are other documents that have been delivered to process assertion. Under it where the United States has 8 9 indicated -- because it's my understanding that their 10 indication of when they say "portion of," that indicated 11 they're redacting. They have maintained in their opposition to 12 our motion that they have produced those documents, but when 13 we've looked back at our discovery, those documents haven't 14 even been produced redacted or not, and we would argue that 15 those documents are relevant, and under the liberative process 16 privilege is a qualified privilege much like the legislative 17 privilege, with a balancing test, that those documents should 18 be produced as well, by a date certain so that we can speed up 19 this discovery.
- THE COURT: Were they produced, Ms. Westfall?
- 21 MS. WESTFALL: I can -- we believe we have produced
- 22 everything --
- THE COURT: Okay. You know, I keep hearing "we believe we've produced them"; "no, we haven't." Why am I
- 25 getting dragged into that? You all should be able to figure

1 that out.

we have produced the underlying correspondence of all of said documents over which we have held the liberative process privilege over minor tiny redacted portions of those letters indicating internal distribution within the Department of Justice. We have produced those documents years ago to the State.

THE COURT: Ms. Roscetti.

MS. ROSCETTI: Your Honor, I was not involved in the previous litigation, so whatever she -- if Ms. Westfall states that, it's very difficult for me --

THE COURT: Okay. Well, then it sounds like you all need to confer further. Correct?

MS. ROSCETTI: Your Honor, Jennifer Roscetti. I would propose we can point out these documents that there are discrepancies with and then we can come to another (indiscernible) there won't be further back and forth --

THE COURT: Okay. Well, you all can certainly do that, but I'm going to have to reset you. So if you all want to gather on that, be real specific about what I need to address, we can, you know, I might be able to visit with you tomorrow morning again at 8:15, or during the lunch hour.

But you know, I can't get in the middle of this.

Yes, we've produced. No, you all haven't. And I don't have

No, your Honor.

MR. SPEAKER:

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              THE COURT: Okay then. You're excused. Just get
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    with Brandy.
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              THE CLERK: Your Honor --
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              MS. ROSCETTI: Thank you, your Honor.
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              MS. WESTFALL: Thank you.
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              THE CLERK: -- do you want to set the
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    (indiscernible)?
              THE COURT: You can do that with them later.
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         (This proceeding was adjourned at 8:37 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATION
I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the
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Jonn / Judson  April 17, 2014
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